16th March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Over this week we will have completed the process of testing of all participating students in the Academy. We have been very impressed by the responsible manner in which all students have undertaken the test. They have now completed three Lateral Flow Device tests under the supervision of Academy staff. Each student has also created an account where the results of their tests can be registered.

One of the main objectives for school LFD testing has been to show the students how to complete the tests themselves. Each student has been shown how to use the online system for the recording of results. They have also been guided on how to self-test using the Lateral Flow Devices. This week, they will bring home a home testing kit. Each kit contains:

1. 7 sterile swabs

2. 7 sachets of solution

3. 7 plastic tubes with dropper lids

4. 7 sachets containing test cartridges

5. 7 resealable bags for the safe disposal of waste

6. An instruction guide explaining how to carry out the test and how to read the results.

More information can be found on our website where there are videos demonstrating how to conduct the test. There is also a video where Mr Nicklin runs through the contents of the pack and explains how to register your results.

Please follow these links to the guidance videos:

<https://youtu.be/EC0UY9z9waQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZhSPnnXyPo>

Since the 8th March, all Academy staff have been completing these tests twice weekly at home and now it is time for our students to do the same. Students are to start home self-testing by taking the test on a Sunday evening 21st March followed by a second test on Wednesday evening 24th March. This will then remain the regular cycle for home testing going forward (Sunday and Wednesday evenings).

It is important for you to know that as parents of school-age children, you are also advised to carry out two tests at home for yourselves. To find out where your nearest collection point for a home testing kit is, follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

The testing process is another means of preventing the risk of COVID-19 infection in the Academy. Many students and parents have said that this reassuring to know that there is regular testing for Coronavirus in the Academy community.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr D McNiffe

Principal